Relief for Film Industry

7588. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Relief for film industry sought", as reported in the Statesman dated the 13th May, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the film makers at a session on film censorship in the capital have urged greater reliefs for the film industry to enable them to make good and clean films; and

(c) if so, the details of the reliefs Government propose to render to film industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news item captioned "Relief for film industry sought" which appeared in the Statesman dated 13-5-1994.

(b) Yes, Sir. Film makers asked for the following reliefs for the film industry in the meeting held by the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting on 11-5-1994;

(i) Grant of institutional finance;

(ii) Relief in Entertainment Tax;

(iii) Removal of countervailing duty on raw film stock;

(iv) Checking of video piracy; and

(v) Removal of Section 285-B of the Income Tax Act.

(c) Action taken/proposed to be taken in respect of each of the aforementioned demands is given in Statement.

Statement

(*i*) *Grant of Institutional Finance*:

The demand was earlier examined by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). It was observed that while there was no restriction on the banks granting loans to the film related sector, this was not a priority sector for the banks. Moreover, due to uncertainity about the success of a film which depends on several factors, banks generally do not risk investing their resources in this sector. The same is the case with financial institutions at national and state levels. Besides, these institutions do not have the expertise to evaluate a film project to assess its marketability and returns. IDBI, however, provides financial assistance to film processing laboratories and for projects for purchase of cinema equipment. The units engaged in film related activities are also eligible for refinance and are, therefore, eligible for modernisation assistance also.

(*ii*) *Relief in Entertainment Tax*:

The subject matter falls within the purview of the State Government and the Union Territory Administration. However,the issue of keeping the Entertainment Tax low has been considered and accepted for adoption by the State Information Ministers' Conference held in 1990. The implementation of this resolution will be discussed in the next conference of State Ministers, scheduled to be held towards the end of June, 1994.

(iii) *Removal of Countervailing Duty* on Raw Film Stock:

The issue had been earlier taken up with CBDT. However, this has not so far been acceded to by the Ministry of Finance.

(v) *Checking of Video Piracy*:

The Copyright (Amendment) Bill recently passed by the Parliament gives more teeth to the existing provisions of the law. It is hoped that with the amended Act, the incidence of video piracy will decline to a great extent.

(v) *Removal of Secton 285-B of the* Income Tax Act:

The Ministry of Finance has been requested to do he the needful to redress the grievance of the film industry.

Installation of Peoples Metre on TV Sets

7589. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan plans to install hi-tech equipment called Peoples Metre on TV sets of selected viewers in the country to jutge viewership rating of programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the criteria to be adopted in selecting the viewers; and

(c) how far it will help Doordarshan to te'ecast quality programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sacking of News Readers of D.D.

7590. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four news readers of Delhi Doordarshan Kendra were sacked recently due to reporting late on duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the criteria adopted in confirming the news readers in Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) News readers are engaged on assignment basis keeping in view the requirements to of the Kendras.

हिसार में दूरदर्शन केन्द्र की स्थापना

7591. **श्री रामजी लाल :** क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि यद्यपि दूरदर्शन प्रचार और प्रसार का सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम है हरियाणा का अपना कोई दूरदर्शन केन्द्र नहीं है और हिसार में प्रस्तावित दूरदर्शन केन्द्र का निर्माण कार्य अभी तक शुरू नहीं हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह दूरदर्शन केन्द्र कब तक अपना प्रसारण कार्य आरम्भ कर देगा ;

(ग) क्या इस केन्द्र का प्रसारण कार्य शीघ्र आरम्भ नहीं होने जा रहा है यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा दिल्ली दूरदर्शन पर हरियाणा के साहित्यकारों और कलाकारों को समय दिया जायेगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. पी. सिंह देव) : (क) और (ख) हिसार में एक उच्च शक्ति टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर और स्टूडियो सुविधा स्थापित किए जाने की परिकल्पना है। सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा योजना की औपचारिक रूप से अनुमोदित करने के बाद सिविल निर्माण कार्य शुरू हो जाएगा। स्थल पर सिविल निर्माण कार्य शुरू होने के बाद, इस आकार की परियोजना को पूरा होने में लगभग 3–4 वर्ष का समय लगता है।

(ग) और (घ) दिल्ली दूरदर्शन केन्द्र द्वारा पहले से ही हरियाणा के कलाकारों और साहित्यकारों को शामिल करके समय-समय पर कार्यक्रम निर्मित और प्रस्तुत किए जा रहे हैं।